

broadcast through satellite — Cuttack programmes for the whole State of Orissa. Now we have to make the ground formation. There are some places where there is no Low Power Transmitter or High Power Transmitter. In the Eighth Plan, we have projected some of them to the Planning Commission. As soon as those are approved of, we will be able to inform the hon. Member the percentage of coverage which will come to.

In fact, in Orissa the present percentage of coverage population-wise is 77 per cent and by the completion of the existing scheme, which would be by the end of this year probably or a little bit early next year, it will go up to 83 per cent.

So far as area-wise is concerned, it is 71 percent at present. At the end of the completion of the programme which is in the pipeline, the geographical area coverage will be 77 per cent.

So far as the second channel is concerned, the concept is different. Second channel was visualised by the previous Government for metropolitan cities only. That is why, it was wrongly labelled as the second channel.

In Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Delhi, in order to cater to the varieties of cosmopolitan population coming there, the programme is for 70 kms. of the city concerned. If it is Bombay it is only 70 kms catenning the to the needs of various language groups coming into the city, various people coming into the city, for the purpose of livelihood, business and otherwise.

So far as Orissa is concerned, it was planned as Regional Channel which we have opened already. In Eastern region only Orissa and West Bengal have got now Regional Channels by up-linking. By the end of the Eighth Plan, all other States and seven Union Territories, we are thinking of covering.

[Translation]

Ongoing Irrigation Projects in Uttar Pradesh

*560. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sent any team to review the progress of ongoing irrigation projects in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the team has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(d) the action being taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Central Government has allocated any funds to the UP Government for the Irrigation Schemes.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they have been given adequate funds as per their requirement, and from time to time we review the situation and provide the funds.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is most unfortunate that though funds were allocated, but arrangements for monitoring the implementation of the project were not made. Will the honourable Minister ensure monitoring of the project.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the schemes are of two types. Some schemes for which permission has been given from here and some are being implemented without taking due permission.

For the schemes being implemented with the co-operation and due permission of the Centre, the team of the Central Water Commission keeps on visiting there and engineers also keep on coming here and their work is almost going on smoothly. During a talk with the hon'ble members of UP last year, the question of the schemes started by the UP Government without the permission of the Central Government had arisen. At that time, I had stated that a team of the Central Water Commission would be sent there who would study and suggest ways to the UP Government to ensure proper utilisation of funds. Accordingly, we sent a team of the Central Water Commission in November 1991 which, first of all, decided the modalities for doing the work and on that basis, we have again started the work and wherever the deficiencies exist, they are being removed.

[English]

Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957

*561. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is also proposed to amend the Mining Leases (Modification of Terms) Rules, 1956 so as to bring minor minerals within the purview of such rules; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE

MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (e). The Government is considering amendment of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 taking into account the proposals received from various State Governments/Union Territories, Federation of Mining Associations and the Mining Industry. Amongst the proposals being considered are changes in the period of mining leases (ML)/prospecting licences (PL), revision of the First Schedule of the Act which specifies the list of minerals in respect of which prior approval of Central Government is required before grant or renewal of ML/PL, facilitating amalgamation of mining leases and mining of minerals underlying the ocean, besides amendments to remove any ambiguity in the Act and make its implementation more effective.

2. Amendment of the Mining Leases (Modification of Terms) Rules 1956 is also under consideration. The objective is to bring minor minerals within the purview of such rules so that the terms of leases of minor minerals granted before the commencement of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 can be suitably modified.

SHRI ANIL BASU: This is a very sensitive question so far as the powers of the States are concerned. I find that Central Government has not made its position clear. While discussing on the cess and other taxes on Mineral Validation Bill last week, the hon. Minister himself said "I would like to submit that Mines and Minerals Development Act is in itself a comprehensive Act and there is no need to amend it." And today within a week in the reply, Government has stated that it is considering amendment of